

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/770,293

Examiner

David P. Bryant

Applicant(s)

REICHERT, GERHARD

Art Unit

3726

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to \_\_\_\_.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-33.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 02 February 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

#### **Specification:**

The paragraph under the heading "CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS" has been changed to the following:

--This application is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/176,561, filed June 21, 2002, now U.S. Patent No. 6,684,474, which is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/775,074, filed February 1, 2001, which is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/637,722, filed August 11, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,425,221, which is a non-provisional application of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/148,842, filed August 13, 1999; the entire disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.--

#### **Claims:**

##### Claim 28:

In line 1, "(e)" has been changed to --(c)-- to obviate an apparent typo.

### REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

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The prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest a method for fabricating a muntin bar grid comprising connecting at least one material strip to each muntin grid element to form muntin grid pieces, and thereafter assembling the muntin grid pieces together to form a muntin bar grid.

Of the cited references, it is noted that the patents to Glover et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,177,156; note Figures 5, 6, 8, and 9), Kinghorn et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,989,384; note Figures 3, 5, and 10), and Palmer (U.S. Patent No. 4,783,938; note Figures 2-5) include muntin grids having attached thereto a "material strip" in the form of an adhesive foam strip. However, these foam strips appear to be applied after the muntin grid elements are assembled together, or they are applied to a unitary, one-piece muntin bar grid. There is no teaching in the art for first applying the material strips to the muntin grid elements to form muntin grid pieces, and then assembling the muntin grid pieces together to form the muntin bar grid.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David P. Bryant whose telephone number is (703) 308-1859. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (6:30-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on (703) 308-1789. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David P. Bryant', is positioned above the printed name.

David P. Bryant  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3726

dpb  
7/22/04